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FARM FACTS

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Tennessee To Conduct Floriculture Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct a Commercial Floriculture Survey at the beginning of 2002. Debra Kenerson, State Statistician for the Tennessee Field Office commented, "It is vital to record the growth in this industry in Tennessee so supporting industries and policy makers can provide necessary resources."

Complete, accurate, and timely reporting by growers will ensure that reliable, objective data on current commercial floriculture production is available to the public and the industry. Accurate statistics are crucial to obtaining research funding and government support on various issues. Individual operation information is completely confidential by law. Ms. Kenerson went on to say, "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes State and U.S. data only, ensuring that no individual operation or grower will be identified." This survey will be used to produce data on key items such as area of production, number sold, value of sales, and production and will be released April 25, 2002.

Results of last years study, released in April 2001, showed that sales from Tennessee's 200 floriculture operations with gross sales over \$10,000 totaled \$55.4 million in 2000, up 18 percent from 1999's total of \$47.1 million from 196 operations. There were 62 growers with over \$100,000 in sales, accounting for 70 percent of covered space and 65 percent of open ground.

Total covered area decreased 372 thousand square feet to 7.0 million square feet, while open ground increased 49 acres to 208. Film plastic greenhouses accounted for the vast majority of Tennessee's covered space. Tennessee producers with over \$100,000 in wholesale sales had \$41.8 million in reported sales in 2000, up 6 percent.

By category, Tennessee producers with more than \$100,000 produced \$8.4 million of total potted flowering plants; \$1.0 million of total foliage for indoor patio use; \$32.4 million in bedding plants; \$26.6 million in annual bedding/garden plants; and \$5.8 million in herbaceous perennial plants. The remaining categories of cut flowers, cut cultivated greens and propagative materials were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations, and were not included in the total.

Record Tennessee Cotton Yield

Tennessee: Cotton production is forecast at 960,000 bales, up 10 percent from last month and 35 percent above 2000. Yield is expected to average 762 pounds per acre, up 72 pounds from a month ago and 159 pounds greater than a year ago. If realized, this will be the highest yield and production on record, surpassing the previous records set in 1994 when the state average yield was 726 pounds per acre and production totaled 885,000 bales.

U.S. Cotton: All cotton production is forecast at 20.1 million 480-pound bales, down 1 percent from last month but up 17 percent from 2000. Yield is expected to average 691 pounds per harvested acre, up 6 pounds from last month. Survey and ginnings data indicated decreased production forecasts in Alabama, California, Mississippi, and Texas, which more than offset increased production forecasts in Arkansas, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The increase in yield resulted from a decrease in Texas harvested acreage. The harvested acreage reduction was based on information from the Objective Yield Survey and administrative data.

Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 13.7 million acres, is down 200,000 acres from the November estimate but up 6 percent from last year. The reduction to harvested acreage in Texas was the result of acreage information from the Objective Yield Survey and administrative data. American-Pima harvested acreage, at 240,500 acres, is unchanged from November but 42 percent above the 2000 crop season.

Extremely dry conditions throughout the Southeastern States increased the efforts focused on harvesting cotton, as many farmers delayed small grain planting due to the lack of moisture. By the time rains were received during late November, the pace of cotton harvest had exceeded the 5-year average in all of the Southeastern States except Alabama. On November 1, harvest in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina was behind normal due to a slow developing crop; however, by December 1, only Alabama remained behind normal harvest pace but made considerable progress during the month.

Despite a slow developing crop and rain delays during early harvest periods, the Delta States had virtually completed harvest by the end of November. Producers in Missouri and Tennessee were pleasantly surprised by record setting cotton yields. If the current yields are realized, Missouri cotton farmers will surpass the previous record of 856 pounds per harvested acre, set in 1994, by 7 pounds. Tennessee producers, with a yield of 762 pounds per harvested acre, will surpass the previous record, established in 1994, by 36 pounds. Objective yield data show boll weights in Arkansas rank as the third heaviest since 1992, increasing from November. Mississippi and Louisiana's boll weights are the second and fourth heaviest, respectively, in the past 10 years.

Harvest in the Southwestern States continued on pace throughout November. In Texas, rains during the middle of the month resulted in minor delays as producers had to wait for open bolls to dry out. A hard, killing frost occurred during the week of November 20 and will aid in defoliating the remaining cotton. Data from the Objective Yield Survey showed Texas' weight per boll ranks sixth out of the past 10 years.

All cotton ginned totaled 15,498,450 running bales prior to December 1, compared with 13,619,100 running bales ginned by the same date last year and 13,379,100 running bales ginned in 1999 (See table on Page 3).

Crop Summary: Tennessee & U.S. Yield and Production, 2000 and Forecasted December 1, 2001

Crop	Yield Per Acre			Production ¹	
	2000	2001		2000	2001
		November 1	December 1		
Upland Cotton	Pounds			1,000 Bales ²	
Tennessee	603	690	762	710	960
United States					
All Cotton	632	685	691	17,188	20,064
Upland	626	675	681	16,799	19,436
Amer-Pima	1,105	1,233	1,253	389	628
Cottonseed ³				6,436	7,532

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned. ² 480-Lb. net weight bales. ³ Production in 1,000 tons. Based on a 3-year average lint-seed ratio.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to December 1, Crop Years 1998-2001

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Cotton				
AL	497,600	548,050	467,850	642,050
AZ	308,850	408,450	414,500	431,250
AR	1,170,850	1,376,850	1,384,950	1,709,650
CA	984,150	1,462,000	1,744,800	1,521,750
FL	59,750	96,000	76,550	105,600
GA	1,101,650	1,141,850	1,193,700	1,522,800
LA	650,350	916,700	914,350	1,020,100
MS	1,391,400	1,672,050	1,667,100	2,129,950
MO	336,600	449,300	499,100	636,050
NM	41,700	42,800	49,750	53,500
NC	944,250	536,900	969,950	1,065,250
OK	116,050	106,900	121,900	130,200
SC	307,050	213,200	296,150	344,950
Tennessee	527,050	572,150	685,450	903,400
TX	2,740,650	3,736,150	3,023,450	3,153,450
VA	131,600	99,750	109,550	128,500
US	11,309,550	13,379,100	13,619,100	15,498,450
Amer-Pima				
AZ	10,450	9,200	4,750	8,850
CA	168,000	257,600	201,350	239,950
NM	2,000	3,450	2,500	8,900
TX	21,100	25,600	18,050	23,050
US	201,550	295,850	226,650	280,750

Tennessee Burley Tobacco: Production for 2001 is forecast at 68.0 million pounds, unchanged from November 1, but down 4 percent from 2000. If realized, this will be the smallest production since 1989. Burley yields held constant with the November forecast at 2,000 pounds per acre, 4 percent above a year ago.

U.S. Burley Tobacco: U.S. production for 2001 is forecast at 354 million pounds, down 5 percent from the November 1 forecast and 2 percent lower than last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 166,800 acres, down 5 percent from last month and 10 percent below a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2,122 pounds per acre, 11 pounds below the November forecast but up 165 pounds from 2000.

**Burley Tobacco: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by State, and United States, 1999-2000
and Forecasted December 1, 2001**

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	2000	2001	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
Type 31	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		
Indiana	3,800	4,200	2,100	2,250	11,700	7,980	9,450
Kentucky	120,000	105,000	2,025	2,200	380,100	243,000	231,000
Missouri ¹	1,400	1,400	2,120	2,200	4,635	2,968	3,080
North Carolina	7,400	6,800	1,600	1,850	12,480	11,840	12,580
Ohio	7,500	6,100	1,760	1,970	17,052	13,200	12,017
TENNESSEE	37,000	34,000	1,920	2,000	103,950	71,040	68,000
Virginia	7,000	8,000	1,600	2,000	23,108	11,200	16,000
West Virginia ¹	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,400	2,160	1,560	1,820
U.S.	185,400	166,800	1,957	2,122	555,185	362,788	353,947

¹ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

All Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates Up Over 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.22 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 7-13, 2001, 2 percent fewer than a year ago. There were 959,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 262,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 12.1 percent of the October hired workforce, compared with 11.3 percent in October 2000. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.58 per hour during the October 2001 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.01 per hour, up 27 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.36 per hour compared with \$7.84 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$8.08 was up 32 cents from last year. Number of hours worked averaged 41.5 hours per week for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.2 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington) and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Pacific region, more workers were employed to complete fall seeding and harvesting, prepare for Christmas trees harvest, and complete horticultural activities. Ranchers were active with supplemental feeding of cattle, weaning and vaccinating calves, and moving cattle to market. In the Corn Belt II region, widespread rains early in the survey week delayed harvesting activities. As fields dried during the week, more hired, supervisory, and other workers were employed to complete harvest.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. Fall harvesting and seeding activities were near completion across much of the three Mountain regions. Dry, cool weather in the Appalachian I region allowed fall harvesting and seeding activities to advance toward completion.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in all regions, except Northeast I (New England and New York), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Mountain I regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) and Corn Belt II regions. The higher wage rates in the Corn Belt regions were attributed to fewer lower paid field and livestock workers and more higher paid supervisory and other workers as widespread rains during the survey week hampered field activities.